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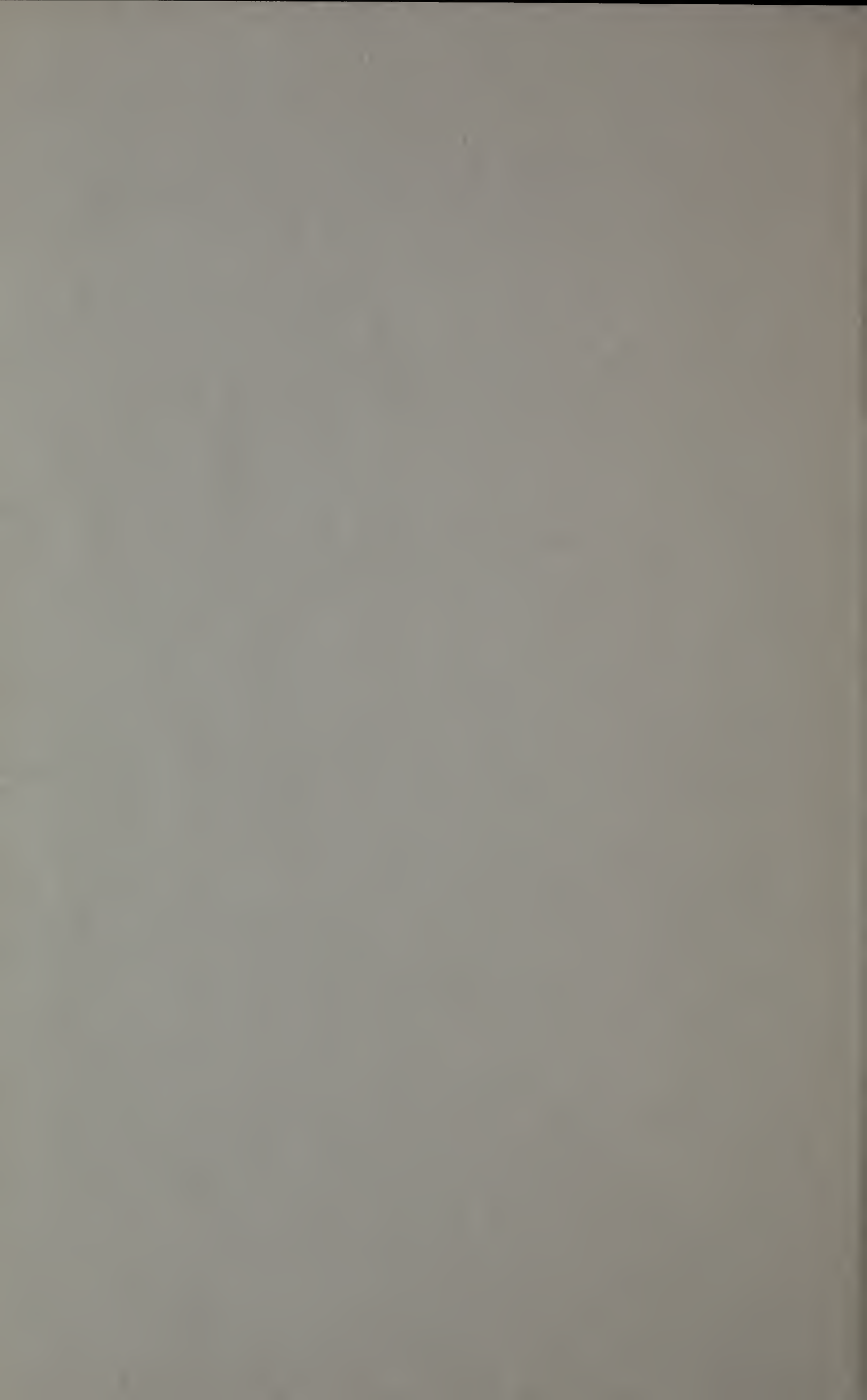
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Babson, George Jay.

A brief & true report
concerning the colonial
Babsons

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A
BRIEF & TRUE REPORT
CONCERNING
THE COLONIAL
BABSONS:



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A
BRIEF & TRUE REPORT
CONCERNING
THE COLONIAL
BABSONS:

*Being an Account of the Family from
its known Beginning to the War of the
Revolution, together with Notices of
Service in that War.*

To which is added an Appendix composed of Notes
on the Text and Extracts from some pertinent
Correspondence of the Period.

Compiled by GEORGE JAY BABSON
a Member of the Family

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A PREFACE TO THE READER

It is customary to acknowledge indebtedness to those who have helped, wittingly or no, in the preparation of a volume, however slim. In addition to those born by the name of Babson and to those who married them (without some of whom I could have no existence, and you no book), I am happy to blame this pamphlet on all who have written the name into the records and on those who have compiled the records in other volumes, notably in The Babson Genealogy, for I have copied freely.

This account ceases, somewhat abruptly, soon after the Revolution, and the reader is entitled to the explanation thereof. Early in the nineteenth century two partially untraced branches of the family were founded, the first in Rhode Island, and soon thereafter another in the Carolinas. The notes of these Babsons are still very incomplete, hence this text will treat of the colonial generations only.

It is the prerogative of an amateur genealogist to invite the comments and criticisms of other members of the family, as well as of their friends and enemies. To this end anonymity must be cast aside, and I therefore subscribe myself,

Your very obedient servant,

GEO. J. BABSON

Leesburg, Virginia.

July 6, 1958

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Tells, in correspondence, of a cruise of the GENERAL MERCER while under the command of Captain James Babson.

Upon the Northern Cape of Massachusetts, that is Cape Ann, a place of fishing is situated, the Town of Gloucester where the Massachusetts Colony first set down, but Salem was the first Town built in that colony, here is a Harbour for Ships.

New England Rarities—1674.

CHAPTER I

1

ISABEL BABSON was born, probably in England, about 1577; died in Gloucester, a widow, Apr. 6, 1661, aged 84 years.

She is earliest mentioned at Salem in the town records under the date of Sept. 25, 1637: "Isabel Babson desires admittance to become an inhabitant." It is supposed that she had then recently arrived in Salem.

At a Court held at Salem, Sept. 24, 1639, John Woodbury, Peter Palfred (Palfrey) and John Balch entered a suit against Elizabeth Babson. (The given names Isabel and Elizabeth were used interchangeably in colonial times.) At a Court held at Salem, June 29, 1641, Isabel Babson brought a suit against John White and Samuel Colburne and testified in the case.

Some time before 1644 she removed from Salem to Gloucester, and land was granted to her in Gloucester that year. The record of her purchase of Ashley's lot in Gloucester harbor is without a date but it was probably made before the grants by the town in 1644.

"Isabell Babson, midwife, aged about 80 years, deposed that she lived near the house of Thomas Prince and told of what William Brown said to Goody Prince, as she told her about the ministers. Mother Babson told her to put it out of her mind as all knew what manner of man Browne was, and upon Goody Prince proving worse she sent for Grace Duch. Sworn to Mar. 30, 1657." (*Essex County Court Records*, 2:38). Mary Millett, Sr., testified in Mother Babson's house about what William Browne said, Apr. 2, 1657. (*Ibid.* 2:37). This was a court case in which William Brown was bound in £40 to answer the next court for his misdemeanor to Goodwife Prince.

Administration on the estate of Isabell Babson, widow, was granted June 25, 1661, to James Babson. The inventory was taken Apr. 9, 1661, by Samuel Delaber and Philip Stainwood and sworn to in court by James Babson. The estate was valued at £27/6. (*Appendix I:1*).

Isabel lived and died in Gloucester on what is now Main Street, near the corner of Porter. The town records show that she was an active and beloved member of the community.

2

JAMES BABSON was born, probably in England, during the year immediately preceeding May 5, 1633; died in Gloucester, Dec. 21, 1683; married at Gloucester, Nov. 16, 1647, ELEANOR HILL, who died Mar. 14, 1713/14, aged about 83.

The case of Abraham Robinson, Wm. Browne, and James Babson versus Tho. Ruck, about taking up a skiff, was heard at the July, 1642, session of the Essex Quarterly Court at Salem.

Walter Tibbetts of Gloucester made his will June 5, 1651, and among his bequests was this: "I give to Elnor Bapsene the wife of James Bapsene forti shlbens" (*Appendix I:2*).

James gave ten shillings to the present maintenance of Brother Millet in 1657. (*Essex County Court Records*, 2:64). Brother Millet was Thomas Millet, ruling elder in the First Church of Gloucester.

He received a grant of land in Gloucester, Dec. 23, 1658 as follows: "Given to James Babson twelve acres of fresh meadow lying above the mill, also twenty acres of upland lying by the side of it." On this grant of land James and Eleanor are believed to have settled with their children, but Isabel continued to live at the Harbor until her death in 1661.

James deposed May 5, 1663, stating that he was thirty years of age. (*Essex County Court Records*, 3:40).

He sold eight acres of upland, six being on the eastern side of Long Poynt and two at said Long Poynt, to William Haskell, Mar. 14, 1671/2, his wife Eleanor signing with him. (*Essex County Deeds*, 22:23).

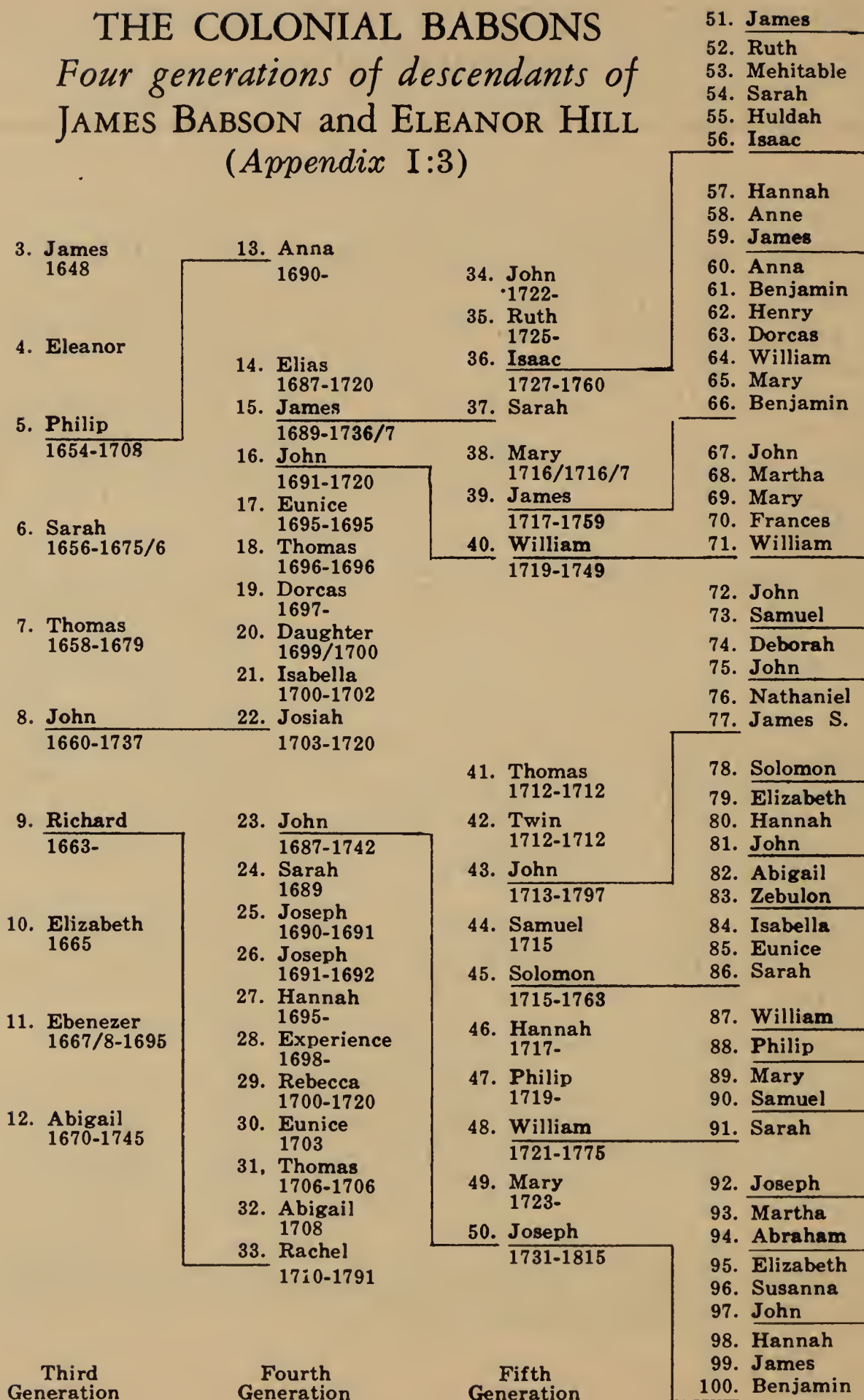
James Babson of Gloucester being by God's Providence visited with sickness and weakness made his will Dec. 4, 1683, which was proved Mar. 25, 1684, New Year's day as time was then reckoned. To his wife he gave all except what he does hereafter dispose of; to his son John Babson he gave two acres which his house standeth upon against the Harbour in Gloucester; to all the rest of his children (not named) five shillings apiece; his son, Philip Babson, to be executor. The inventory was taken Dec. 21, 1683, and amounted to £111/16. (*Essex Probate Files*, 1183).

Thomas Witham, who married Abigail Babson July 8, 1691, received from her mother, Eleanor, a gift of land situated near her own residence at the Farms, where he built a house which he made his home for life, and which has been owned and occupied by his descendants down to the present time (1860). In 1697 John Ring, acting as the agent, it is said, of Thomas Witham, bought the James Babson Farm at Little Good Harbor. (*Babson, History of Gloucester*, 180, 132).

Children, born in Gloucester:

- 3—I. JAMES, b. Sept. 29, 1648.
- 4—II. ELEANOR, b. June 15, 1650.
- 5—III. PHILIP, b. Oct. 15, 1654.
- 6—IV. SARAH, b. Feb. 15, 1656; d. Jan. 19, 1675/6.
- 7—V. THOMAS, b. May 21, 1658.
- 8—VI. JOHN, b. Nov. 27, 1660.
- 9—VII. RICHARD, b. June 1, 1663.
- 10—VIII. ELIZABETH, b. Oct. 8, 1665; living with her mother, unm., in 1704; probably m. May 18, 1716, Thomas Sheath.
- 11—IX. EBENEZER, b. Feb. 8, 1667/8; d. about 1695, unm.
- 12—X. ABIGAIL, b. May 13, 1670; m. July 8, 1691, Thomas Witham of Gloucester. Abigail, wife of Thomas Witham, d. Feb. 25, 1745. Her son Daniel was the third Gloucester graduate of Harvard College.

THE COLONIAL BABSONS
Four generations of descendants of
JAMES BABSON and ELEANOR HILL
 (Appendix I:3)



CHAPTER II

3

JAMES BABSON was born in Gloucester, Sept. 29, 1648.

John Martin, bachelor, of New England, departed this life on the high seas, June 5, 1673. He made his will June 3 which was proved in London the following Feb. 5, 1673/4: "to James Babson, my consort, I give my wages that is due to me for my service in his Majesty's ship *Jersey*, with all the rest of my goods, money, or what else I possess in this ship." (*Water's Genealogical Gleanings in England*, 2:1288).

This places James, then in his twenty-fifth year, in the ship *Jersey*, June 3, 1673. No later record has been found.

5

PHILIP BABSON was born in Gloucester, Oct. 15, 1654; died before Aug. 5, 1708; married at Salem, Oct. 22, 1689, HANNAH BAKER, daughter of Cornelius and Hannah (Woodbury) Baker, born Nov. 28, 1662; died at Beverly, Dec. 13, 1692.

Hannah, wife of Philip Babson, owned the covenant of the First Church of Beverly, May 3, 1691, and on the same day their daughter was there baptized.

Child, born in Beverly:

13—I. ANNA, b. Aug. 22, 1690. Probably the Anna Babson who m. in Gloucester, Mar. 15, 1719/20, Israel Hendricks, a sojourner in Gloucester.

7

THOMAS BABSON was born in Gloucester, May 21, 1658; died shortly before May 23, 1679.

He "served long in Philip's War" and was in Capt. William Turner's Company from Apr. 6, 1676. Thomas took the oath of fidelity as a seaman at a Court held in Salem, Jan. 29, 1677/8. (*Essex County Records and Files*, 6:402).

Edmond, or Edward, Ashley brought a suit against Timothy Clarke, captain of the ship *Sea Venture* for false imprisonment, and Timothy Clarke brought a counter suit in the same court against Ashley for refusing to pay 27 shillings from the wages of Thomas Babson, deceased, for satisfaction of the doctor of the *Indeavour* in the last voyage at Salatudes; Ashley having received the full wages of Babson, deceased, at Tertudes, May 23, 1679. (*Ibid.* 7:254).

8

JOHN BABSON was born in Gloucester on Nov. 27, 1660; died there in June, 1737; married in Gloucester, Nov. 8, 1686, DORCAS ELWELL, only daughter of Josiah and Mary (Collins) Elwell of Gloucester; died in June 1737 also. Their marriage was performed by Rev. John Emerson and is the earliest noted in the Gloucester Town Records solemnized by a minister.

In the distribution of town lands on Feb. 21, 1688, John Babson received a six acre lot, and in 1695, had a grant of two or three acres at Straitsmouth to "set up fishing upon." He subsequently received additional grants of the common land until 1725, when the final distribution of lots was made. It is not known that he ever lived on his land at Straitsmouth.

In 1718 he was living on the lot at the Harbor that had belonged to Isabel, one half of which, in that year, he gave to his son, John Babson, in consideration "of that natural love and parental affection which I have and do beare unto my son, and also for his dutiful carriage and behavior of himself towards me, and to encourage him still to take care of and be helpful to me in my old age, in case I should stand in need, and being willing to settle him in some part of my estate."

Children, born in Gloucester:

- 14—I. ELIAS, b. Sept. 4, 1687; d. May 15, 1720, probably unm.
- 15—II. JAMES, b. July 5, 1689.
- 16—III. JOHN, b. Dec. 14, 1691.
- 17—IV. EUNICE, b. Feb. 4, 1695; d. Aug. 24, 1695
- 18—V. THOMAS, b. June 28, 1696; d. July 17, 1696.
- 19—VI. DORCAS, b. June 26, 1697; m. Jan. 19, 1720/21, Robert Randall.
- 20—VII. Daughter, b. and d. Jan. 11, 1699/1700.
- 21—VIII. ISABELLA, b. Dec. 15, 1700; d. Aug. 27, 1702.
- 22—IX. JOSIAH, b. Mar. 26, 1703; d. June 6, 1720.

9

RICHARD BABSON was born in Gloucester, June 1, 1663; married (1) about 1686, MARY ———, who died in Gloucester, Feb. 14, 1717/1718. They lived at Fresh Water Cove. He married (2) in Gloucester, Oct. 14, 1718, JANE READING, widow of John Reading.

He received a grant of land in Falmouth (now Portland) Maine in Feb. 1720 in the name of Richard Babston, and on Oct. 10 of that year sold to his son John his house and land at Fresh Water Cove for £34 and acknowledged the deed at Falmouth.

On the muster-roll of Captain John Gray's company, dated at Boston, Nov. 25, 1725, is carried, from June 1 to Nov. 30 of that year, "Richard Babson, Centenl". (*Massachusetts Archives*, 91:221).

He is noted in Rev. Thomas Smith's 'Journal' at Falmouth under the date of March 21, 1727, and on Oct. 14, 1729 Richard Babson made 'his mark' on a deed to Moses Pearson, "Joyner of Newbury", of his lands in Falmouth. (*York County Deeds*, Book XIII, Fol. 156). He called himself 'of Falmouth' and the consideration was £28; his wife did not sign. No later record has been found, nor any notice of his death.

Children, born in Gloucester:

- 23—I. JOHN, b. July 9, 1687.
- 24—II. SARAH, b. Jan. 12, 1688/9; m. Feb. 3, 1708/9, Nathan Millet, who was drowned near Manchester Neck, Jan. 6, 1724, leaving a widow and seven children.

- 25—III. JOSEPH, b. June 25, 1690; d. Feb. 1, 1690/91.
- 26—IV. JOSEPH, b. Nov. 19, 1691; d. July 19, 1692.
- 27—V. HANNAH, b. Dec. 22, 1695; m. Dec. 23, 1714; James Sawyer, Jr. and settled near her father's home at Fresh Water Cove.
- 28—VI. EXPERIENCE, b. Apr. 23, 1698.
- 29—VII. REBECCA, b. Aug. 6, 1700; she had a son called James Dyke, b. Mar. 12, 1719/20. "Tis reported that his sd mother dyed at Billerica" Apr. 8, 1720, aged 19.
- 30—VIII. EUNICE, b. Mar. 14, 1702/3; m. Dec. 24, 1723, John Millet; they lived on the Rev. Richard Blynman farm at Kettle Cove.
- 31—IX. THOMAS, b. May 3, 1706; d. May 26, 1706.
- 32—X. ABIGAIL, b. May 13, 1708; probably m. Job Denning Mar. 28, 1727.
- 33—XI. RACHEL, b. 1710; d. April 25, 1791, unm. in Beverly.

11

EBENEZER BABSON was born in Gloucester on February 8, 1667/8. The date of his death is not known but John James Babson states that he died before 1696. He was very much alive in July, 1692 as is shown in the following paragraph from Rev. Samuel Niles History of the Indian and French Wars (*Massachusetts Historical Society Collections*, 26: 231):

"Thus ended the year 1692, except a strange and inexplicable occurrence that happened this year at Gloucester, upon good and authentic testimony from several persons of undoubted veracity and credit, given upon oath. This story would be too long here to relate in all the circumstances of it. It may therefore be sufficient that I acquaint my reader, that in the month of July this year, there appeared several men, as they that saw them apprehended, not together, but sometimes one only, at other times two or three together, and once about a dozen in company, and heard them talking one to another. They appeared in the habit of Frenchmen, and sometimes others of them as Indians. They heard them stamping in the night about the garrison. Several men shot at them, and they were seen to fall down as dead; but when those that supposed they had killed them came near the place, they would either disappear, or stand up and run away; and though they ran over muddy places, they

left no track behind them. They appeared with guns, and twice shot at those who pursued them. One Ebenezer Babson, being in the woods alone, heard the report of a gun fired by one of these which cut off the limb of a pine bush near to him, and lodged in a hemlock tree, which was after cut out, and preserved a long time, if not to this day. For the truth of these strange occurrences, we have the testimony of this Babson, Day, Hammond, Ellery, Dolliver, who with others fired at them, but to no purpose." (*Appendix*, I:4).

He may have been distinguished in an encounter with a less ethereal enemy, and thus have been the occasion of the local saying, "The knife that Babson killed the bear with." (Babson, *History of Gloucester*, 61). The legend now appears in this couplet:

"Babson, Babson, killed a bear,
With his knife, I do declare."

Roger W. Babson, in his "Story of Bear Skin Neck," puts it as follows: ". . . Ebenezer Babson, who then resided at the Farms, saw the bear attack the boy (his nephew, Henry Witham). He immediately attacked the bear to get his attention away from the child, but having no gun he permitted the bear to follow him into the water. There—after a terrific struggle—Ebenezer killed the bear with a fish knife.

He then brought the bear onto the shore, skinned him, and spread the skin on the rocks to dry. Ebenezer died shortly afterwards, presumably lost at sea, but his nephew Henry Witham, whose life he saved, lived to a ripe old age. Naturally, he often told the story of his rescue and when people asked how Ebenezer killed the bear, he would reply: "With his knife, I do declare."

 CHAPTER III

15

JAMES BABSON was born in Gloucester, July 5, 1689; died before Feb. 8, 1736/7; married in Gloucester, Dec. 26, 1721, RUTH LOVETT. She entered her intention (2) July 9, 1737, with Ebenezer Somes of Gloucester.

This is probably the James Babson whose ship was taken by the pirate, John Phillips, in April, 1724.

Ruth Babson of Gloucester, widow, was appointed administratrix of the estate of her husband James Babson, late of Gloucester, deceased, Feb. 8, 1736/7, and Ruth Babson alias Somes, rendered her account of said estate, Oct. 24, 1737. (*Essex County Probate*, 1184).

Ruth Somes alias Babson, administratrix of the estate of James Babson, late of Gloucester, mariner, deceased, for £465 sells John Babson of the same town, mariner, a tenement in Gloucester in the Harbour so called between the two streets and one half acre, being a part of the homestead of John Babson, deceased, the father of the said James Babson, deceased, bounded easterly by the land of Capt. John Prince, southerly on the Forestreet, northerly on the New or Meeting House street, Nov. 22, 1743. (*Essex County Deeds*, 84:275).

Children, born in Gloucester:

- 34—I. JOHN, b. Nov. 16, 1722.
- 35—II. RUTH, b. July 5, 1725.
- 36—III. ISAAC, b. about 1727.
- 37—IV. SARAH, perhaps m. Jonathan Stevens, int. June 5, 1745.

16

JOHN BABSON was born in Gloucester, Dec. 14, 1691; died there June 1, 1720; married in Gloucester, Jan. 6, 1714/15, MARY BUTMAN, daughter of John and Sarah

(Robinson) Butman, born in Gloucester, July 18, 1697. She married (2) in Gloucester, Jan. 12, 1720/21, Jabez Merchant; died there, Mar. 12, 1778, aged 80 years.

He was the youngest of three John Babsons living in Gloucester in his lifetime and therefore, was called John Babson, 3d.

Mary Babson, widow, was appointed administratrix of the estate of John Babson, 3d, of Gloucester, deceased, with James Babson and Philemon Warner as sureties, Jan. 3, 1720/21.

Jabez Merchant of Gloucester, cordwainer, and Mary his wife, late widow of John Babson, 3d, of Gloucester, deceased, agree that John Babson shall take the eldest child James to bring him up at his own charge; and has paid unto his son James Babson, a debt of £50 which was due from the estate of his brother, John Babson, deceased. In consideration of this Jabez Merchant and Mary his wife quitclaim unto their father, John Babson, all rights in the housing and land which her late husband died seized of during the minority of his grandson, James Babson. This agreement was signed Feb. 17, 1721/22. (*Essex Probate*, 1187).

Children, born in Gloucester:

- 38—I. MARY, b. Dec. 15, 1716; d. Jan. 18, 1716/17.
- 39—II. JAMES, b. Dec. 19, 1717.
- 40—III. WILLIAM, b. Nov. 4, 1719.

JOHN BABSON was born in Gloucester, July 9, 1687; died shortly before Dec. 13, 1742; married in Gloucester Aug. 20, 1711, HANNAH HODGKINS, probably daughter of Samuel and Hannah Hodgkins, born in Gloucester, May 18, 1686; died there about 1774.

Hannah Babson, widow, was appointed administratrix of the estate of her husband, John Babson, late of Gloucester, coaster of the fishermen, deceased, Dec. 13, 1742. The inventory was taken Jan. 7, 1742/3, amounting to

£123/5/11. John Babson, Jr., received from the estate a portion, May 30, 1743. (*Essex County Probate*, 1188).

Children, born in Gloucester:

- 41—I. THOMAS, b. April 21, 1712; d. April 22, 1712.
- 42—II. TWIN, stillborn April 21, 1712.
- 43—III. JOHN, b. Sept. 7, 1713.
- 44—IV. SAMUEL, (twin), b. June 12, 1715, no further record.
- 45—V. SOLOMON, (twin), b. June 12, 1715.
- 46—VI. HANNAH, b. Sept. 8, 1717; m. Nov. 29, 1750, Benjamin Webber.
- 47—VII. PHILIP, b. July 28, 1719.
- 48—VIII. WILLIAM, b. Oct. 18, 1721.
- 49—IX. MARY, b. Dec. 24, 1723.
- 50—X. JOSEPH, b. July 18, 1731.

CHAPTER IV

34

JOHN BABSON was born in Gloucester, Nov. 16, 1722; died before 1775; perhaps married ABIGAL ALLEN in Gloucester on Dec. 2, 1756. (*Appendix I:5*).

There has been found no other record that appears to refer to him, nor any notice of his or Abigail's death. The Gloucester Town Records show no birth of a child of this marriage.

36

ISAAC BABSON was born about 1727; died Jan. 6, 1760; married in Topsfield on Jan. 2, 1748/9, MEHITABLE CUE, daughter of Robert and Mary Cue, born in Wenham, June 22, 1732; died in Beverly on Feb. 15, 1799.

He was mate of a vessel at the time of his death, from small pox, at Point Petre, Guadaloupe.

Mehitable Babson, widow, was appointed administratrix of the estate of her husband, Isaac Babson, late of Wenham, deceased, Apr. 14, 1760. The inventory mentions land in Wenham £62 and land in Gloucester £30/13/4.

Isaac Babson of Hopkinton, N. H., gentleman, petitioned Mar. 4, 1787, to sell the estate. He gave a bond to pay to Sarah Francis, a daughter of the deceased, or her representatives, and to Ruth Babson and Mehitable Killam, other daughters, £11/10 each, on Mar. 13, 1784, one third being assigned to the widow as her dower. John Francis received for Sally Francis her part of her grandfather's estate, Nov. 16, 1784, Ruth Babson received her share at Hopkinton, Apr. 13, 1784, Mehitable Babson, the widow, had her third set off, Mar. 1, 1784. James Babson, the eldest son had two shares and Isaac Babson, another son, had one share. (*Essex Probate*, 1181).

Mehitable Babson of Beverly, widow, made her will, Nov. 6, 1798, which proved Mar. 5, 1799. She mentions therein the grandchildren left of her son James Babson and her daughter Mehitable.

Children, born in Wenham:

- 51—I. JAMES, b. Mar. 5, 1748/9.
- 52—II. RUTH, b. Nov. 22, 1751; living in Beverly, unm. 1799, d. at Wenham, unm., pauper, 1822.
- 53—III. MEHITABLE, b. May 30, 1753; m., (int. Feb. 1778) John Killam of Wenham.
- 54—IV. SARAH, b. June 6, 1755; d. 1787; m. July 23, 1772, John Francis of Beverly.
- 55—V. HULDAH, b. May 23, 1757; d. Aug. 1, 1759. (*Appendix I:6*)
- 56—VI. ISAAC, b. Feb. 2, 1759.

39

CAPT. JAMES BABSON was born in Gloucester, Dec. 19, 1717; died there Sept. 2, 1759; married (intention Dec. 16, 1738), HANNAH SMITH, who died in Gloucester, Nov. 26, 1759, aged 43.

He was master of the schooner *Industry* and arrived from Lisbon, May 19, 1757; and again from the same port, Apr. 10, 1758. He arrived at Cape Ann from Lisbon in five weeks, Apr. 12, 1759—his last voyage. Rev. Samuel Chandler attended the funeral of both Capt. Babson and his widow.

Aaron Newhall was granted administration on the estate of James Babson, late of Gloucester, mariner, deceased, Mar. 3, 1760, and gave bond in £1000. The inventory mentions his sea books and instruments £2/6/8; his dwelling house, barn and land, £250; his pew in Rev. Mr. Chandler's Meeting House, £14/6/8; total £421/7/7.

An account of the estate of Hannah Babson, late of Gloucester, deceased is dated Aug. 25, 1760. In the same file, James Babson, mariner, was appointed administrator, Aug. 20, 1765. The estate was settled on James Babson, the eldest son of the deceased and he was ordered to pay his brother Benjamin Babson, his sister Hannah Newhall, his sister

Anna Sanders, his sister Dorcas Babson and his sister Mary Babson £29/8 each, Aug. 20, 1765. (*Essex Probate*, 1185).

Children, born in Gloucester:

- 57—I. HANNAH, b. Oct. 20, 1739; m. Dec. 14, 1758, Capt. Aaron Newhall.
- 58—II. ANNE, b. Dec. 3, 1741; d. young.
- 59—III. JAMES, b. July 12, 1743.
- 60—IV. ANNA, b. Mar. 22, 1745; m. Dec. 27, 1763, Bradbury Sanders.
- 61—V. BENJAMIN, b. Nov. 9, 1746; d. young.
- 62—VI. HENRY, bp. April 10, 1748.
- 63—VII. DORCAS, b. July 5, 1749; unm. 1765; probably m. Feb. 6, 1772, Epes Sargent, Jr.
- 64—VIII. WILLIAM, b. Dec. 26, 1750.
- 65—IX. MARY, b. Feb. 6, 1753.
- 66—X. BENJAMIN, b. Feb. 24, 175—; bp. Feb. 29, 1756.

40

WILLIAM BABSON was born in Gloucester, Nov. 4, 1719; died 1749, lost at sea; married in Gloucester, Nov. 20, 1743, MARTHA HARADEN, born April 26, 1726, daughter of Capt. John Haraden of Annisquam; died in Gloucester, Oct. 15, 1772. They lived on Haraden's Point, at Annisquam in Gloucester.

William Babson sets forth that the estate of his mother Martha Babson, late of Gloucester, belongs to Gideon Lane, Nathaniel Griffin, Jesse Saville and himself and is unsettled and as his business calls him away to sea desires the Court to grant administration to his brother-in-law Gideon Lane, Feb. 3, 1773. Gideon Lane was appointed, Mar. 2, 1773, and gave bond in £500. The inventory shows that she owned the training field and land adjoining the Flake Yard; the whole valued at £293/17/8½.

William Babson, one of the heirs, appeared in Court and complained that Gideon Lane had not rendered an account, Jan. 2, 1776. Gideon Lane rendered the account Apr. 9, 1777. (*Essex Probate*, 1194).

Children, born in Gloucester:

- 67—I. JOHN, b. July 2, 1744.
- 68—II. MARTHA (twin), b. Oct. 8, 1745; m. Oct. 6, 1763, Jesse Saville; living in New Boston, N. H. in 1776. She d. April 19, 1785.
- 69—III. MARY (twin), b. Oct. 8, 1745; m. Feb. 23, 1764, Gideon Lane.
- 70—IV. FRANCES, b. Aug. 10, 1747; m. Dec. 1765, Nathaniel Griffin.
- 71—V. WILLIAM, b. Sept. 1749.

43

JOHN BABSON was born in Gloucester, Sept. 7, 1713; died there in March, 1797; married, in Gloucester, Jan. 11, 1738/9, DEBORAH STEVENS, daughter of James and Deborah (Sayward) Stevens, born in Gloucester, Oct. 23, 1719. (*Appendix I:5*).

He purchased, by deed dated Nov. 22, 1743, from the estate of James (15) Babson a part at least of Isabel's Harbor lot where she had lived a hundred years before. A portion of this land was sold, for £13/6/8, to Samuel Chandler, clerk (clergyman), in August 1752; both John and Deborah signed the deed.

John Babson was master of *Britannia*, 38 tons, sailing from Salem to Maryland, Dec. 7, 1759, and from Maryland to Salem Apr. 8, 1760. He sailed again from Salem to Virginia Dec. 10, 1761; from Maryland Apr. 7, 1762, and to Maryland, Dec. 7, 1762. He was master of the schooner, *Charming Betty*, 50 tons, sailing from Salem to Virginia Dec. 10, 1763, and from Maryland, Apr. 21, 1764. (*Essex Institute Collections*, 62:318, 63:52).

Children, born in Gloucester:

- 72—I. JOHN, b. Oct. 9, 1739; d. young.
- 73—II. SAMUEL, bapt. Mar. 22, 1740/41.
- 74—III. DEBORAH, bapt. July, 1744; m. Dec. 11, 1766, Charles Fleming.
- 75—IV. JOHN, bapt. Feb. 8, 1746/7.
- 76—V. NATHANIEL STEVENS, b. Dec. 6, 1749.
- 77—VI. JAMES STEVENS, bapt. April 19, 1752; has not been traced.

SOLOMON BABSON was born in Gloucester, June 12, 1715; died shortly before Apr. 18, 1763; married in Gloucester, Nov. 9, 1739, ELIZABETH PARSONS, probably daughter of John and Elizabeth Parsons, born in Gloucester, Apr. 30, 1721.

Jacob Parsons, merchant, administered upon the estate of Solomon Bapson, late of Gloucester, deceased, Apr. 18, 1763. The inventory was taken May 2, 1763 in which there is mentioned his dwelling house and an acre of land and a pew in the meeting house. His estate was declared insolvent, May 23, 1763; Elizabeth Bapson, his widow had her thirds set off, June 17, 1763. (*Essex Probate*, 1199).

Children, born in Gloucester:

- 78—I. SOLOMON, b. Nov. 2, 1740.
- 79—II. ELIZABETH, b. May 8, 1742.
- 80—III. HANNAH, b. May 8, 1742.
- 81—IV. JOHN, b. April 27, 1746.
- 82—V. ABIGAIL, b. April 10, 1748; m. Benj. Haskell Mar. 15, 1770.
- 83—VI. ZEBULON, b. Dec. 10, 1750.
- 84—VII. ISABELLA, b. Nov. —, 1752; m. June 16, 1773, John Collins.
- 85—VIII. EUNICE, b. May 20, 1755.
- 86—IX. SARAH, bapt. May 15, 1757.

PHILIP BABSON was born in Gloucester, July 28, 1719. He married (1) in Gloucester, July 24, 1744, MARY ELWELL, buried there Dec. 8, 1745; published (2) in Gloucester, June 5, 1756, to ABIGAIL GIDDINGS of Exeter, N. H.; married (3) in Hampton, N. H., Jan. 24, 1771, MRS. BETTY ROBINSON.

He deposed with others at Montserrat, Dec. 23, 1746, that he knew the sloop *La Fortune* which was bought into the island and that she was built at Cape Ann. (*Essex County Notarial Records*, 46:92). He was master of the schooner *Barcelona*, of 60 tons, which arrived in Salem from Cura-coa, May 22, 1752. (*Essex Institute Collections*, 63:302).

Philip Babson of Gloucester, mariner, exchanged lots in Gloucester with the Town for a triangular lot "whereon my house now stands" . . . near the new school House, Aug. 12, 1751. (*Essex Deeds*, 99:230). He sold the same land to Daniel Rogers of Gloucester, merchant, June 29, 1759 and Abigail signed with him. He then removed to Exeter from which place his second wife came. He purchased land and buildings in Exeter of Thomas Haley, May 2, 1766 and sold the same property to Theophilus Gilman and Samuel Brooks, Jr., of Exeter, Apr. 9, 1778. He and his wife Betty both signed this last deed. (*Rockingham Co. Deeds*, 108:470 and 110:338).

He died before 1790 since Betty Babson was the head of a family at Gilmantown, N. H. in that year consisting of one male over sixteen and two females. No births were recorded to him in Gloucester.

48

WILLIAM BABSON was born in Gloucester, Oct. 18, 1721; died there in 1775; married (1) in Gloucester, July 24, 1744, MARY WILLIAMS, perhaps the daughter of John and Jane (Robinson) Williams, born in Gloucester, July 16, 1728; married (2) in Gloucester, May 14, 1765, ELIZABETH CHOATE, perhaps the daughter of Josiah and Patience (Roberts) Choate, born in Gloucester, Sept. 20, 1740.

It is believed that it was this William Babson who was taken from a fishing vessel in 1775 and forced to pilot H.M.S. *Falcon*, Capt. Lindsay, during the attack on Gloucester in that year. He is supposed to have died shortly thereafter as a result of ill-health, aggravated by his treatment by Capt. Lindsay.

The settlement of his estate is not recorded in Essex County.

Children by the first wife, born in Gloucester:

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 87—I. | WILLIAM, b. Oct. 25, 1745. |
| 88—II. | PHILIP, b. June 23, 1747. |
| 89—III. | MARY, bp. April 2, 1749; m. June 25, 1768, Daniel Wallis. |
| 90—IV. | SAMUEL, b. Aug. 22, 1750. |
| 91—V. | SARAH, bp. May 13, 1753. |

JOSEPH BABSON, born in Gloucester, July 18, 1731; died in Sedgwick, Me. (now Brooklin), Jan. 15, 1815. He married in Gloucester, June 12, 1755, MARTHA SOMES, daughter of Abraham and Martha (Emerson) Somes, born in Gloucester, Sept. 21, 1735; died in Sedgwick, Nov. 11, 1823.

Joseph Babson was commander of the schooner *Adventure*, 42 tons, from Virginia to Salem, Aug. 2, 1757; to the West Indies, Sept. 7, 1757 and from St. Martin's, Jan. 3, 1758. He was master of the schooner, *Charming Abigail*, 36 tons, sailing from Salem to Virginia, Dec. 9, 1758; from Maryland, Mar. 13, 1759; from Salem to Virginia, Dec. 8, 1760; from Virginia, Mar. 17, 1761; to Virginia, Dec. 17, 1761; from Virginia Apr. 13, 1762; and from Salem to Virginia, Dec. 15, 1762. He again commanded the *Charming Abigail* sailing to Dominico, Jan. 7, 1764 and returning from Antigua, May 5, 1764. (*Essex Notarial Institute*, 62: 195, 197; 63:51).

The family moved from Gloucester to Naskeag (Sedgwick) in 1773.

Children, born in Gloucester, except the last two:

- 92—I. JOSEPH, b. Dec. 6, 1756.
- 93—II. MARTHA, b. Nov. 10, 1758.
- 94—III. ABRAHAM, b. Aug. 20, 1761.
- 95—IV. ELIZABETH, b. Sept. 15, 1764; probably m. May 26, 1783
Joseph Putnam of Newburyport.
- 96—V. SUSANNA, bp. Sept. 21, 1766.
- 97—VI. JOHN, bapt. Dec. 25, 1768.
- 98—VII. HANNAH, bapt. Aug. 25, 1771; m. Joseph P. Bachellor of
Sedgwick.
- 99—VIII. JAMES, b. in Sedgwick in 1775.
- 100—IX. BENJAMIN, alive in 1844, no other record.

 CHAPTER V

51

JAMES BABSON was born in Wenham, Mar. 5, 1748/9; died July 13, 1777. He married in Beverly, May 23, 1771, ELEANOR CONANT of Beverly, daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth (Dodge) Conant, born in Beverly, Jan. 8, 1747/8; died there Mar. 4, 1802.

He sailed from Salem to Wilmington, N. C., and with naval stores for the West Indies. When six days out he was captured by an English privateer and taken to Liverpool, Eng., whence he took passage for New York and died of small pox on the voyage.

Children, born in Beverly:

- 101—I. ISAAC, b. Aug. 9, 1771.
- 102—II. JAMES, b. Dec. 1, 1773.
- 103—III. JOHN, b. July 17, 1776.

56

ISAAC BABSON was born in Gloucester, Feb. 2, 1759; died in Manchester, N. H., July 31, 1800. He married in Warner, N. H., Mar. 13, 1787, ELEANOR STARK, daughter of Genl. John and Elizabeth (Paige) Stark, born in Dunbarton, N. H., June 30, 1767. She married (2) ——— Coombs, and had a son Isaac Coombs.

As a Harvard undergraduate he enlisted in Capt. Minot's company Mar. 4, 1776, for the attack on Dorchester Heights which was the prelude to the British evacuation of Boston. Soon after graduating in 1779 he served aboard the privateer *Buccaneer*.

He had moved to Hopkinton, N. H. as early as 1784 and was a tavern keeper and merchant. He sold his lands in Hopkinton, Dec. 18, 1790 (to David Merritt) and Aug. 22, 1793 (to Caleb Stark of Dunbarton) and removed to Derryfield, now Manchester, where he was taxed from 1797

to 1800. There is no record of the settlement of his estate in Hillsborough County.

Mary Babson of Manchester, singlewoman, made her will Dec. 5, 1839, which was proved Apr. 21, 1873. She mentions Henrietta Hoit, of Barnstead, my niece, daughter of Benjamin Hoit; her cousin, Elizabeth Boldgett Stark, daughter of John Stark, 3d., of Manchester; her mother Eleanor Coombs; her sister Sally Babson, of Boston, to be executrix.

Sally Babson of Boston, died Jan. 1878. Her heirs were John Babson of Barnstead, N. H., brother and the children of her deceased sister Mehitable Hoit, viz., Ellen Merrill, wife of Joshua Babcock Merrill, of Concord, N. H., Charlotte Sanborn, widow of Calvin Sanborn of Barnstead, Henrietta Warland, widow of T. F. Warland, of Concord, Harriet Newell Rand, wife of Hiram Rand of Barnstead, Fanny Elizabeth Johnson, wife of John Johnson, of North Berwick, Me., Sarah Babson Thompson, wife of A. Hiram Thompson of St. Stephen, N. B., John Stark Hoit, now or formerly of Concord, N. H., Thomas Lewis Hoit, formerly of North Berwick, now of Lynn, nephews and nieces. Bond, \$250,000.

Children, born in Hopkinton:

- 104—I. SALLY, b. about Sept. 1788; d. in Boston, Jan. 2, 1878, unm.
- 105—II. MARY, d. before April 21, 1873, probably unm.
- 106—III. MEHITABLE, b. April 13, 1793; m. in Barnstead, Jan. 25, 1815, Benjamin Hoit of Barnstead.
- 107—IV. JOHN, b. about Feb. 4, 1799; lived in Manchester and Barnstead; died in Pittsfield, N. H., Oct. 8, 1879; aged 80 yrs., 8m., 4d. No evidence has been found that he had a family.

59

CAPT. JAMES BABSON was born in Gloucester, July 12, 1743; died shortly before April 13, 1790; married in Gloucester, Apr. 6, 1764, REBECCA SANDERS, daughter of Capt. Thomas and Judith Sanders, born in Gloucester, Mar. 16, 1746/7.

Capt. Babson was placed in command of the brigantine *General Mercer* (called in France *The Hancock*), a priva-

Capt. James is noted in Diary of John Adams as dining with him (Adams) in Bilbao, Spain on 15 Jan. 1780 - Capt. James B. Then in command of 'Phoenix', a brig (sic) of 14 guns. Where and when did he die?

teer of 16 guns and 100 men, on Apr. 30, 1777; and of the brigantine *Phoenix*, privateer of 14 guns and 40 men on Sept. 2, 1778. The interested reader will find in *Appendix II* brief extracts from official correspondence relating to Capt. James' tribulations as commander of the *General Mercer*.

Rebecca Babson, widow, was granted administration on the estate of Capt. James Babson, mariner, late of Gloucester, Apr. 13, 1790, and gave bond £500.

Children, born in Gloucester:

- 108—I. JAMES, bp. May 19, 1765.
- 109—II. MARY JACKSON, bp. Dec. 13, 1767; m. May 10, 1787, Dr. Thomas Babbitt of Gloucester. (*Appendix I:7*)
- 110—III. REBECCA, bp. Aug. 4, 1771; d. Oct. 1774.
- 111—IV. BENJAMIN, bp. Mar 13, 1774; d. Aug. 1778.

64

WILLIAM BABSON was born in Gloucester, Dec. 26, 1750. He was not mentioned in the settlement of his father's estate, Aug. 20, 1765, nor has any other record been found.

66

BENJAMIN BABSON was born in Gloucester, Feb. 24, 175—; baptized in the First Church, Feb. 29, 1756.

Aaron Newhall was appointed his guardian, Apr. 21, 1760; he was discharged Aug. 20, 1765, and Capt. James Babson, his brother, was on that day appointed guardian. He was the youngest child of the family and living Aug. 20, 1765, then in his tenth year. No later record has been found.

67

JOHN BABSON was born in Gloucester, July 2, 1744; died shortly before Jan. 25, 1774; perhaps married ANNA SAVERY at Gloucester, Mar. 20, 1771.

His widowed mother, Martha, for £40 sold to "John Babson, Jr. of Gloucester, mariner, my son all that part of the dwelling at Annisquam which I now occupy," June 22, 1772. (*Essex Co. Deeds*, 130:178).

William Babson, mariner, was appointed administrator of the estate of John Babson, late of Gloucester, mariner, deceased, Jan. 25, 1774, and gave bond of £1,000. The inventory gives one half of a dwelling in the Third Parish near Squam Ferry and land back of it, £85. (*Essex Probate*, 1189).

There were no children recorded to him in Gloucester.

71

CAPT. WILLIAM BABSON was born in Gloucester, Sept. 5, 1749; died in the hospital in Charlestown, Dec. 30, 1831; married in Gloucester, Apr. 17, 1777, ANNA (NANCY) ROGERS, daughter of Rev. John and Mary (Ellery) Rogers, born in Gloucester, Oct. 23, 1754; died there, June 24, 1826.

In a petition dated March 28, 1778, William Babson was named second lieutenant of the brigantine *Civil Usage*, privateer, Capt. John Smith commanding.

He was a sea captain and lived in the Annisquam Parish of Gloucester. Administration on his estate was granted to Daniel W. Rogers with William Babson, merchant, and William Ferson, Esq., sureties, all of Gloucester, Feb. 7, 1832.

The distribution of the estate was made as follows: to William Babson; to William R. Babson for the estate of John Babson; to William Babson for James Babson; to Nancy Griffin; to Nathaniel Babson; to Joseph Haraden; to William Babson for Mary Stacy; to George Rogers, guardian to Nancy R. Babson and Lydia R. Babson, children of Charles Babson, deceased; to William R. Babson for Martha Stacy, each one share, Jan. 6, 1835. (*Essex County Probate*, 1202).

William Babson, Nathaniel Babson and Joseph Haraden, all of Gloucester, James Babson of West Newbury, Martha Stacy, widow, and Abigail Babson, singlewoman, both of Wiscasset, Me., and William R. Babson of Gardiner, Me., heirs of the estate of William Babson, deceased, quitclaim unto Thomas Griffin of Gloucester, mariner, all rights in the premises in Squam Parish in Gloucester, formerly the

estate of William Babson, deceased, with the dwelling house, which formerly belonged to Nathaniel Griffin, deceased. This deed was signed by William Babson, Nathaniel Babson, Joseph Haraden, James Babson, Martha Stacy, William R. Babson, Abigail Babson, Sarah Babson, Eliza G. Babson, Charlotte G. Babson, and Susan Babson, Sept. 24, 1832. (*Essex Deeds*, 266:256). Abigail Babson, called singlewoman, should have been called widow of John Babson of Wiscasset.

Children, born in Gloucester:

- 112—I. ANNA, called Nancy, b. Jan. 11, 1778; m. Dec. 2, 1797, Capt. Gustavus Griffin; alive 1835.
- 113—II. WILLIAM, b. June 7, 1779.
- 114—III. JOHN, b. Mar. 2, 1781.
- 115—IV. CATHARINE, b. July 3, 1782; m. Dec. 27, 1802, Joseph Haraden of Annisquam; d. before Feb. 7, 1832.
- 116—V. NATHANIEL, b. June 17, 1784.
- 117—VI. MARTHA, b. July 28, 1786; m. Sept. 19, 1813, Nymphas Stacy of Wiscasset.
- 118—VII. CHARLES, Jr. b. Dec. 20, 1788.
- 119—VIII. MARY, b. April 24, 1791; m. 1817, John Stacy; alive Jan. 6, 1835.
- 120—IX. DORCAS, b. Aug. 14, 1793; perhaps m. Gideon Lane 3rd, Jan. 30, 1817; not mentioned in the division of her father's estate, Feb. 19, 1833.
- 121—X. JAMES, b. Oct. 27, 1795.

73

CAPT. SAMUEL BABSON was baptized in Gloucester Mar. 22, 1740/1; died in Lincoln, Oct. 8, 1805; married in Gloucester, July 16, 1765, LYDIA PLUMMER, who died in Lincoln, May 16, 1805.

Samuel Babson was master of the schooner *Brittania*, 60 tons, sailing from Salem to Maryland, Dec. 10, 1763, and from Virginia, Mar. 19, 1764.

Under the date of Nov. 19, 1768 James Stoodly of Portsmouth, N. H., surviving executor under the will of James Stevens, late of Portsmouth, sold for £106/13/4 to Samuel Babson of Gloucester, the northerly half of land at the Harbor, so called, which James Stevens purchased of his father, Samuel Stevens.

Capt. Samuel Babson of Cape Ann was reported as having been confined on a guard ship in England and as proceeding later to Halifax, having obtained his discharge, whence he was taken in the shallop *Sea Flower* by Capt. Solomon Rider and landed at Piscataqua in June, 1777.

He was commander of privateers during the Revolution: the brigantine *Ranger* in 1780 and 1781, and the brigantine *Dolphin* in 1782. (*Appendix I:8*).

He lived in Gloucester until 1799, and then removed to Lincoln. His descendants brought claim against the United States for the loss of the schooner *Sally* in the French Spoliations as late as 1890. (*Middlesex Co. Probate*, 289).

Children, born in Gloucester:

- 122—I. SAMUEL, b. Oct. 19, 1766; d. in St. Eustatia about 1792.
- 123—II. THEODORE, b. Sept. 2, 1775.
- 124—III. CHARLES, b. Oct. 10, 1777.
- 125—IV. HORATIO, b. Mar. 12, 1781.
- 126—V. LYDIA, b. May 6, 1783—.

75

JOHN BABSON was baptized in Gloucester, Feb. 8, 1767/7; married, as John Babson, 3rd, HANNAH PEARSON in Gloucester, Nov. 21, 1775.

It was probably this John Babson who served as matross, or gunner's mate, in Captain William Ellery's 1st Company in Gloucester from June 17, 1776, to the end of that year, and in 1779 went on the disastrous Penobscot Expedition as mariner on the brig *Vengeance*, 10 guns, 100 men, Captain Thomas Thomas commanding.

Child, born in Gloucester:

- 127—I. JOHN, bp. Jan. 29, 1777.

76

NATHANIEL STEVENS BABSON was born in Gloucester on Dec. 6, 1749.

On May 2, 1775, he enlisted in Captain Lunt's company of Colonel Little's Regiment and served at Bunker Hill; the muster roll is dated August 1, 1775. He re-enlisted

in Captain Wards Company for Arnold's expedition to Quebec and was captured there during the assault of the night of December 31, 1775. No later record of him has been found.

The services of Captain Lunt's Company at Bunker Hill and of Captain Ward's Company until the attack on Quebec are detailed in the War Diary of William Haskell, Nathaniel's fellow townsman. The Diary is published as part of Kenneth Robert's "March to Quebec."

78

CAPT. SOLOMON BABSON was born in Gloucester, Nov. 2, 1740; lost at sea shortly before Apr. 6, 1796; married at Gloucester, Aug. 29, 1765, DOROTHY BROWN, who was buried at Gloucester, June 3, 1827, aged 82 years.

With his younger brothers, John and Zebulon, he engaged in privateering during the Revolution; he was part owner of the schooner *Phoenix* in 1776, commander of the brigantine *Success* in 1778 and '79, and commander of the brigantine *Ruby* in 1781 and in 1782. Among the prizes of the *Ruby* while under his command was an Irish brigantine, laden with beef, pork, and butter for the British army. It was sent in to Gloucester and was undoubtedly very welcome.

Administration on the estate of Solomon Babson, late of Gloucester, mariner, deceased, was granted to Solomon Parsons with Samuel Whittemore, Esq., and Moses Sawyer, sail-maker, all of Gloucester, sureties in \$1,000, Apr. 6, 1796. The inventory mentions two-thirds of a dwelling house and garden, \$200; three quarters of an acre, \$15; 80 acres in New Gloucester, \$160. The estate was declared insolvent, Oct. 3, 1796. Mrs. Dorothy Babson, widow, had her rights in two-thirds of the dwelling which the deceased purchased of Capt. Jacob Parsons, late of Gloucester, deceased, bounded by the thirds of the widow Elizabeth Parsons. (*Essex County Probate*, 1200).

The census of 1790 increases his household by three females (probably daughters) in addition to the children

listed below. His ship is said to have foundered at sea on a passage from the West Indies.

Children, born in Gloucester:

- 128—I. ELIZABETH, b. May 13, 1766; probably m. Nov. 29, 1788, Solomon York.
- 129—II. DOLLY, bapt. Oct. 2, 1768; probably m. Nov. 11, 1794 or 1795, Moses Sawyer.
- 130—III. MOLLY TANNER, bapt. Jan. 14, 1770.
- 131—IV. SOLOMON, bapt. Dec. 8, 1771; no further record.
- 132—V. FREDERICK, bapt. Mar. 13, 1774; no later mention found.
- 133—VI. JOHN, probably.
- 134—VII. JOSHUA, probably.

81

CAPT. JOHN BABSON was born in Gloucester, Apr. 27, 1746; died at Mount Desert Island, Me., Mar. 22, 1825; married in Gloucester, Apr. 26, 1775, SUSANNAH ROGERS, daughter of Rev. John and Mary (Ellery) Rogers, born in Gloucester, June 6, 1756; died at Mount Desert Island in Sept. 1828.

Capt. Babson was actively engaged in privateering during the Revolution both as commander (the *Gloriosa* in 1777 and the *Ruby* in 1779) and as part or full owner of the *Ruby* and the *Diamond*. He was master of the snow *Harriet*, out of Portland, Me., for Surinam in 1801, and again active in privateering during the War of 1812 as owner and commander of the schooner *Lucy* in 1814. (*Appendix I:9*).

Children:

- 135—I. RACHEL ROGERS, b. May 27, 1776, in Gloucester; m. Nov. 6, 1796, Capt. Abraham Somes; d. Mar. 21, 1839.
- 136—II. SUSANNAH, b. Mar. 10, 1780, in Amesbury; bapt. in Gloucester, Dec. 4, 1781.
- 137—III. JOHN, bp. Mar. 24, 1782, in Newburyport, d. Aug. 1783.
- 138—IV. MARY ANN, b. Dec. 3, 1783, in Newburyport.
- 139—V. JOHN, b. April 5, 1786, in Gloucester.
- 140—VI. ISABELLA, b. Feb. 6, 1788, at Cape Ann.
- 141—VII. GEORGE, b. Mar. 11, 1790, in Gloucester.
- 142—VIII. EBEN, b. Mar. 29, 1792, in Gloucester.
- 143—IX. SALLY ROGERS, b. Jan. 6, 1795 in Gloucester.
- 144—X. SOLOMON, b. Jan. 17, 1797, in Gloucester.
- 145—XI. ELIZA PARSONS, b. Aug. 27, 1799, in North Yarmouth.

CAPT. ZEBULON BABSON was born in Gloucester, Dec. 10, 1750; lost at sea, 1784; married (int. at Gloucester, May 6, 1775) MARY ALLEN; probably the widow Mary Babson who died at Gloucester Feb. 13, 1818.

Capt. Zebulon was captured early in the war and was exchanged at New York for a Capt. John Gardner. Upon petition of John Babson and others he was commissioned commander of the ship *Diamond*, privateer, on Dec. 29, 1781. After the war, in 1784, he sailed again in command of the *Diamond* and was washed overboard three days out.

Children, born in Gloucester:

- 146—I. MARY, b. Feb. 11, 1776; d. in Gloucester, Sept. 15, 1855, unm.
- 147—II. ELIZABETH, bapt. Jan. 12, 1778; d. in Gloucester, Oct. 24, 1858, unm.
- 148—III. HARRIET, bapt. Nov. 26, 1780; d. Nov. 7, 1823, unm.
- 149—IV. ZEBULON, b. Sept. 10, 1784.

WILLIAM BABSON was born in Gloucester, Oct. 25, 1745; lost at sea, 1777; married in Gloucester, Nov. 7, 1769, ELIZABETH WALLIS, probably daughter of David and Elizabeth (Shortwell) Wallis, born in Gloucester, June 13, 1749.

He was lost in the privateer *Gloucester* which sailed from Gloucester July 1, 1777, and, after capturing the brig *Two Friends* off the Banks of Newfoundland and the brig *Spark*, was never heard of again.

Children, born in Gloucester:

- 150—I. WILLIAM, b. Mar. 31, 1771.
- 151—II. DAVID WALLIS, b. Oct. 22, 1772.
- 152—III. MARY, bp. Oct. 15, 1775.
- 153—IV. ISAAC, b. Feb. 7, 1775.
- 154—V. JOSEPH, b. June 2, 1777.

PHILIP BABSON was born in Gloucester, June 23, 1747; died before 1790; married in Gloucester, Feb. 14, 1771,

HANNAH HARVEY, daughter of Nehemiah and Abigail (Hodgkins) Harvey, born in Gloucester, Mar. 22, 1746/7. She may have married in Gloucester, Oct. 26, 1793, Col. Daniel Collins.

Children, born in Gloucester:

- 155—I. PHILIP, b. June 4, 1771; d. young.
- 156—II. HANNAH, bapt. Aug. 8, 1773.
- 157—III. PHILIP, b. Oct. 10, 1777.
- 158—IV. MARY, bapt. Jan. 16, 1780.
- 159—V. WILLIAM, bapt. June 23, 1782.
- 160—VI. JAMES, b. Oct. 2, 1784.

90

SAMUEL BABSON was born in Gloucester, Aug. 22, 1750; died shortly before Nov. 2, 1802; married in Gloucester, Oct. 18, 1772, HANNAH TARR, probably the daughter of Caleb and Hannah (Davis) Tarr, born in Gloucester, Aug. 5, 1754; buried in Gloucester, Feb. 14, 1838.

He was a mariner on the ship *Vengeance* in the expedition to Penobscot and served from June 27, to Aug. 27, 1779.

Hannah Babson, widow of Samuel Babson, mariner, late of Gloucester was appointed administratrix of his estate, Nov. 2, 1802 and Isaac Elwell and Samuel Babson, Jr., mariner, both of Gloucester, were sureties; widow's thirds set off, Nov. 3, 1803. The account mentions bills due to Samuel Babson, Jr. and David Babson. (*Essex County Probate*, 1198).

Children, born in Gloucester:

- 161—I. HANNAH, bapt. Aug. 21, 1774.
- 162—II. SAMUEL, Jr. b. Jan. 9, 1777.
- 163—III. HENRY, b. June 19, 1779.
- 164—IV. MOLLY, b. Jan. 4, 1783; m. Oct. 5, 1799, Joseph Babson.
- 165—V. BETSY, b. Mar. 2, 1785.
- 166—VI. DANIEL TARR, bapt. June 16, 1788.

92

CAPT. JOSEPH BABSON was born in Gloucester, Dec. 6, 1756; died in Newburyport, Apr. 22, 1843, aged 87. He married in Gloucester, Apr. 1, 1781, RUTH HERRICK, daugh-

ter of Joseph and Tryphosa (Groves) Herrick, baptized in Gloucester, May 30, 1762; died in Newburyport, Dec. 28, 1848, aged 87.

Capt. Joseph Babson, being advanced in years, made his will which was proved May 2, 1843. He mentions therein his wife Ruth Babson, his daughters Ruth Griffin, widow of Jacob Griffin, Ann S. Collins, wife of William Collins of Gloucester and Catharine, wife of William Atwater of Newburyport. To my daughter Lydia, wife of Abraham Babson and to my son Joseph Babson, I make no bequests having made provision for them heretofore but I give bequests to their children. Moses Merrill of Newburyport, merchant, to be executor. (*Essex County Probate*, 31734).

Children, first born in Cape Ann, others in Newburyport:

- 167—I. JOSEPH, JR., b. May 30, 1782; bapt. Sept. 22, 1782.
- 168—II. LYDIA, b. Nov. 30, 1786; bapt. Aug. 12, 1787; m. (1) Oct. 1, 1805, Abram Somerby of Newbury; m. (2) Nov. 11, 1816, Abraham Babson of Sedgwick, Me.; alive 1838.
- 169—III. RUTH, b. Jan. 15, 1789; bapt. Sept. 20, 1789; m. July 9, 1809, Jacob Griffin; living as his widow in 1838.
- 170—IV. ANNA SOMES, b. June 15, 1792; int. Feb. 23, 1811, William Collins; living in Gloucester in 1838.
- 171—V. CATHARINE, b. May 13, 1795; m. May 20, 1821, William Atwater; living in Newburyport in 1838.

94

ABRAHAM BABSON was born in Gloucester, Aug. 20, 1761; married (int. Nov. 24, 1787) RUTH LUFKIN. No record of his or her death has been found.

Abraham moved with his family to Maine in 1773. He enlisted in Capt. Nathan Fales company on Aug. 3, 1779, and served in the attack on Castine (the Penobscot Expedition) in that month.

He apparently returned to Gloucester after the Revolution as he married there in 1787 and was the head of a family in Gloucester in 1790. He returned to Maine about 1791 as his children were born at Sedgwick after that year.

Children, born in Sedgwick except the first three:

- 172—I. RUTH JANE, b. Aug. 19, 1788, d. young.
- 173—II. ABRAHAM, b. Feb. 4, 1789.

- 174—III. SALLY, b. Oct. 23, 1790.
- 175—IV. MARTHA, b. Sept. 30, 1792; perhaps m. Benjamin Dodge of Sedgwick.
- 176—V. JOSEPH, b. Oct. 24, 1794.
- 177—VI. RUTH, b. Sept. 5, 1796.
- 178—VII. WILLIAM MILLETT, b. April 19, 1798; d. young.
- 179—VIII. JOANNA, b. Mar. 20, 1799.
- 180—IX. DANIEL, b. 1801; m. Mary Smith of Sedgwick.
- 181—X. ABIGAIL, b. Mar. 22, 1804.
- 182—XI. WILLIAM, b. Aug. 29, 1806.
- 183—XII. NANCY, b. Dec. 1808.
- 184—XIII. JOHN M., b. 1810.
- 185—XIV. ELIZA, b. 1813.

97

JOHN BABSON was baptized in Gloucester, Dec. 25, 1768; died in Brooklin, Me., after 1850; married at Sedgwick, Me., Apr. 7, 1796, EMMA BROWN.

He was a ship-builder in Brooklin before 1800 (schooner *Ulysses* in that year), and was living there with his son John in 1850.

Children, born in Sedgwick:

- 186—I. ELIZA (BETH), b. June 20, 1798; m. Joseph Perkins, Sept. 20, 1824.
- 187—II. SUSANNA, b. Nov. 19, 1803.
- 188—III. SOPHIA, b. Sept. 19, 1804.
- 189—IV. LOUISA, b. April 2, 1806; m. Simeon Allen, Nov. 19, 1829.
- 190—V. JOHN W., b. April 26, 1808.
- 191—VI. SIVILIAN, b. 1810.
- 192—VII. SAMUEL BROWN, b. Oct. 2, 1812.
- 193—VIII. JAMES MADISON, b. Jan. 27, 1815.

99

JAMES BABSON was born in Naskeag, Me., in 1775; died in Maine in 1863, aged 88. (*Babson's History of the Early Settlers in Gloucester*, Part 1, p. 8.) He does not appear in the Census of 1850 in Brooklin, Sedgwick or Brooksville. No further information has been found.

THE APPENDIX

PART I

1

James is not stated to be the son of Isabel since there is a doubt about their relationship. The difference in their ages was about fifty-five years so it seems probable that a generation is missing from the record and that James may have been her grandson. Tradition says that Isabel had a son John and also that an adult male Babson (reputedly her husband) died on the voyage to this country. To quote the Rev. Samuel Niles (on Ebenezer): "I leave everyone to judge as he pleases."

2

Isabel and James brought the name Babson to this country and despite temporary misspelling—Bapson, Bapsene, Bapsen and Babston—it survives today; Batson is the name of a quite different family. The probable derivation of the name is simple; it is a metronym meaning the son of Barbara, but it may have reached its present form by adding-son to Babb or Babbe. Or it may have been an accepted misspelling of such a name as Rabson.

To illustrate this last possibility, John Rabson married a Jane Fowle in England in 1631; his name is reported in the New England Historical and Genealogical Register as John Babson, but a subsequent inspection of the original wills and tax lists reveal it to have been Rabson beyond any doubt. The hard fact is that the name Babson has been found recorded only as it has applied to the present family in this country and, failing some successful future research, all else is speculation.

For the benefit of those who may be perturbed at James' early marriage there is this line from Walter Powell, an English diarist of the early seventeenth century:

"My daughter Anna m'ied John Watkins, both younge."
(She was ten and the groom twelve.)

3

The chart is for the benefit of the reader; it simplifies the determination of family relationships and groups. The index lines identify the offspring of each progenitor by leading to his youngest child of the next generation.

4

This quotation is from the Rev. Samuel Niles' History of the Indian and French Wars, but the original source is a long letter from Rev. John Emerson of Gloucester to Cotton Mather, printed in full in 'Magnalia Christi' VII, 82-84.

The reader will remember that this was also the year of Salem witchcraft hysteria when many heads older than Ebenezer's were bewitched, and that we have had, in our time, the Martians and the flying saucers.

5

It is difficult to determine if Abigail Allen became the wife of John (34) or if she was the second of John (43) whose first, Deborah, may have died between 1752 and 1756. Lacking any proof of the date of Deborah's death, or of John's (34) being still alive in '56, there appears no basis for a sure decision, a typical dilemma for the genealogist.

6

The compiler of 'The Babson Genealogy' mistakenly noted Huldah's death as Mehitable's and apparently inserted a second Mehitable to have one available for the marriage to John Killam.

7

The Thomas among the untraced Babsons in the 'Genealogy' is probably this James. The transcriber of the deed

from James and Rebecca, confused by the similarity of the surnames, may have given Dr. Babbitt's first name to his father-in-law.

8

Samuel is probably the Captain Babson of the following extract from the Diary of William Pynchon of Salem, dated Jan. 11, 1781:

"Mr. Greenwood informs of Capt. Babson's story, told him at ——— by a Capt. of man-of-war, who says the brig *Fame* was taken by a fleet and carried to England, and he saw her, and described her."

(Mr. Pynchon's son, Wm. Pynchon Jr. was aboard the *Fame*.)

9

The *Lucy*, a privateer schooner of twenty-five tons, one carriage-gun, 26 men, was owned and commanded by John Babson; Perez Drinkwater, Lieutenant; commissioned Dec. 22, 1814. Her very brief cruise is described in this letter from Lt. Drinkwater date-lined Saturday morning, May 21, 1814, at Dartmoor Prison, England:

"Dear Brother,

I am sorry to have to inform you that I am in this country and have been so this almost four months. We was taken on the thirteenth January by the brig BILLERKIN after a short chase of nine hours and a small resistance with our guns (sic) which was to no purpose for she was a brig of twenty guns and a hundred and thirty men. We arrived into Plymouth on the twentieth of January, was put on board the BRAVE, prison ship, on the twenty-third, was landed from her on the thirty-first and marched to this place in a snowstorm . . . "

from Shipbuilding Days—William H. Rowe.

The reader will observe that this tiny vessel, less than thirty feet on deck, was captured when more than halfway to England, apparently bent on raiding the shipping on that country's coasts.

PART II

PROLOGUE

“Among the first privateers sent out from this town was the sloop *Union*, Captain Isaac Somes. She captured a ship bound to Lisbon with a cargo of fish, and a brig laden with salt. The latter was purchased by a company, named the *General Mercer*, and fitted out on a cruise under the command of James Babson. On the coast France, in company with a Philadelphia privateer, she captured two or three brigs which were sent in there and condemned.”

Babson's History of Gloucester.

From the bonds of the privateers:

Apr. 30, 1777—*General Mercer*, brig; 16 guns, 100 men; commander, James Babson; owners, Winthrop Sargent and John Winthrop.

May 26, 1777—*Fanny*, brigantine; 18 guns, 100 men; commander, John Kendrick; owners, Adam Babcock and Archibald Blair.

(Miniscule as a raiding task force composed of these two privateers may seem today, each represented about one percent of the effective naval strength of their country in 1777.)

To refresh the reader's memory of the positions held by the correspondents in the following letters:

COMPTE DE VERGENNES—Minister of Foreign Affairs under Louis XVI.

LORD STORMONT—The British diplomatic representative to France.

ROBERT MORRIS—Called the financier of the Revolution, member of the Committee of Secret Correspondence, which directed foreign affairs for the Congress.

DR. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN—American representative to the French government from Sept. 26, 1776, and head of the Commission of which the other members were:

SILAS DEANE—Originally 'commercial agent' to France but later, in the fall of 1776, appointed to Franklin's commission, and

ARTHUR LEE—One time colonial agent for Massachusetts in London, appointed confidential agent there for the Committee of Secret Correspondence in 1775, and in 1776 transferred to Franklin's commission in France.

THE LETTERS

From SILAS DEANE to ROBERT MORRIS:

Paris, 23 August, 1777.

" . . . Some other prizes have arrived in different ports, particularly two valuable Jamaicamen sent into Nantes, a few days since by Captains Babson and Kendricks . . ."

"Since writing the above the two Jamaica prizes are, by order of the court, arrested, and it remains doubtful whether they will not be restored to the original proprietors. The captain of one of the privateers, took on board a lady, who was prisoner on board an American privateer bound for Boston. This he did from motives of humanity. On his arrival at Painboeuf she wrote to her brother, a merchant at Nantes, who came down, and, hoping to get the consignment of the prizes, officiously advised the captain to report them as ships laden at St. Eustatia, which they did, and on their arrival consigned the prizes to Messers Lee & Williams, who immediately made a private sale of them. Mean-time the owners, being acquainted with the proceedings and knowing that the ships and cargoes by being regularly entered were in the hands of the custom-house, lodged claims showing that they had been falsely entered and were English property captured

by American privateers and consequently, by treaty, could not be sold in France. This obliged the Government to arrest the prizes or openly violate the treaty. Mr. Williams came up a few days since, and presented a memoir on the subject, but I fear he will receive an unfavorable answer. . . . ”

To His Excellency the Comte de Vergennes:

Paris, 28 August, 1777.

Sir,

I have received the letter which your Excellency has done me the honour to write, and I see with the greatest satisfaction that you intend to concert with M. deSartine the most efficacious means for preventing abuses which would be directly contrary to the orders given by His Most Christian Majesty, and to the friendship which happily exists between the two Courts.

I have just received, Monsieur le Comte, from a very certain source, further information which it is my duty to communicate to you at once.

The two vessels of the Jamaica fleet entered the port of Nantes on Sunday the 17th instant, as well as the two American privateers which captured them—GENERAL MERCER, Captain Babson, and the FANNY, Captain Kenrick, each carrying fourteen guns. These two privateers, together with their prizes, entered under false declarations, and as coming from St. Eustatius. I am now in a position to give you, Sir, the names of our two vessels; one is called the CLARENDON, Captain Cowell, the other the HANOVER PLANTER, the name of whose captain I do not know. These vessels are laden with sugar and rum. In order the better to conceal the fraudulent entrance, the crews of the two English vessels are detained on board the two American pirates, where they experience very rough treatment. On the CLARENDON there were two passengers of consideration,

namely, a lady of distinction and her husband, who are no better treated than the rest.

I am persuaded, Monsieur le Comte, that it is sufficient to inform you these facts, and I do not doubt for one moment that the necessary orders will be at once dispatched to cause the two American pirates to depart immediately after having set at liberty all English prisoners they have on board, and I reiterate my just demands that the two English vessels, the CLARENDON and the FANNY, which I can now guarantee to be vessels of the Jamaica fleet, may be sequestered in the port of Nantes, together with all their cargo, until the proprietors, or their agents, can produce their titles of ownership. I am very sorry to have to trouble Your Excellency so often; I repeat my apologies and the assurances of the perfect attachment with which,*

*I have the honour to be, Monsieur le Comte,
your very humble and very obedient servant,*

STORMONT.

* It will be observed that Lord Stormont here inadvertently reclaims, not the English prize *Hanover Planter*, but the American privateer *Fanny* which captured her.

Steven's Facsimile No. 1801

To M. LeComte de Vergennes:

Paris, 26 December, 1777.

We beg your Excellency's Permission to make an appeal from the Judgment of the Admiralty at Nantes which ordains a confiscation of the two Prizes (British West-India Ships) taken legally on the High Seas by two American Privateers, and that Your Excellency will be pleased to request his Majesty to suspend the Departure of those Prizes, and their cargoes, until the justice of our appeal shall have been regularly decided by the proper Tribunal.

The great value of the prizes in questions, the distressed situation of their Captors, and the discredit which has fallen upon the causes of our Country, by the disposition which was made of ships after their Confiscation, as well as by the indecent exultation of our enemies on that subject, all unite in making it our Duty to trouble your Excellency with this request and to Pray that you will favorably represent it to the King.

*We have the honor to be
with the greatest Respect,
Your Excellency's most Humble
and most Obedient Servants,*

B. FRANKLIN
SILAS DEANE
ARTHUR LEE.

FRANKLIN, DEANE, and LEE to the Committee of
Foreign Affairs:

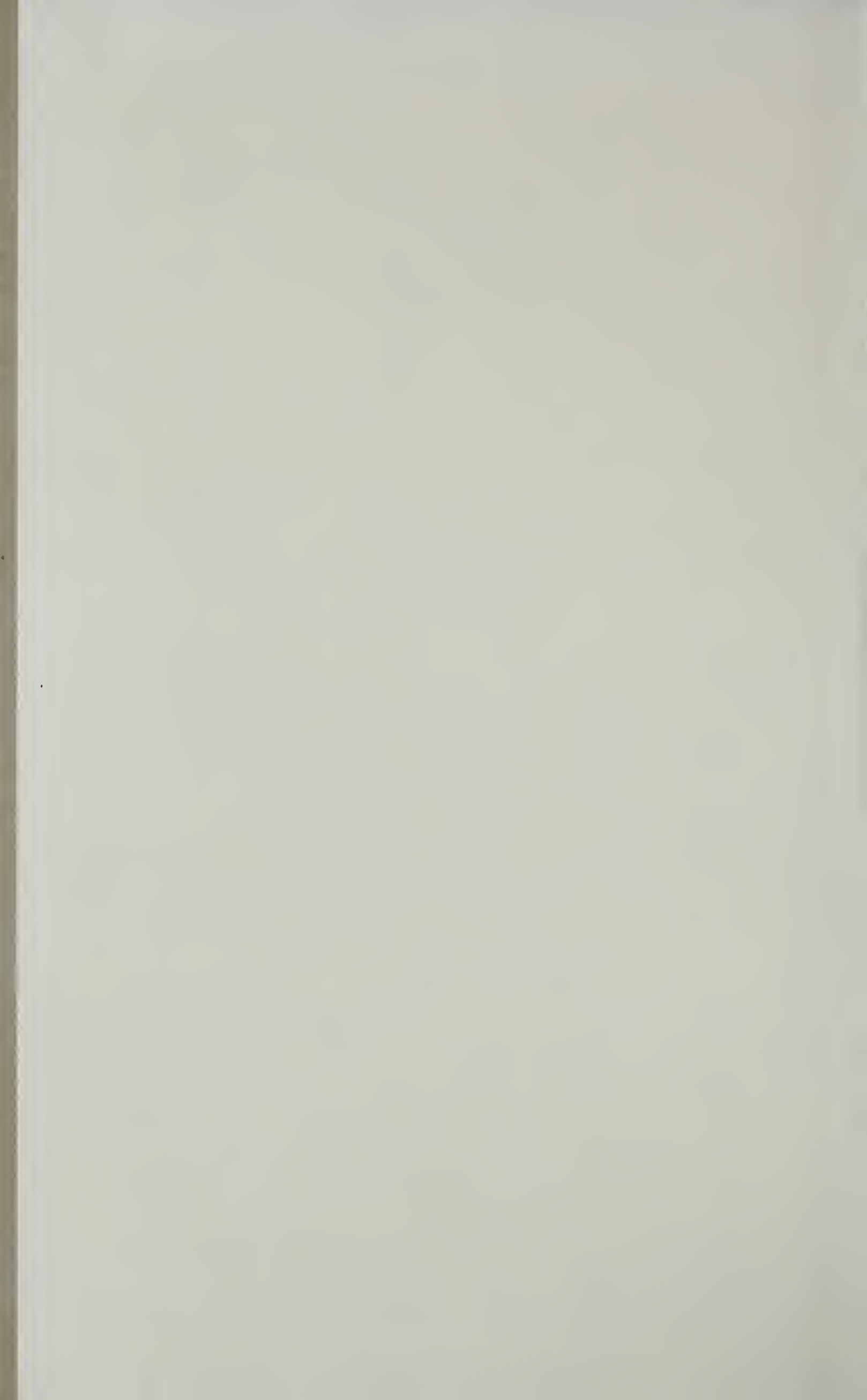
Passy, February 28, 1778.

Gentlemen:

Americans are everywhere in France treated with respect and every appearance of affection. We think it would be well to advise our people in all parts of America to imitate this conduct with regard to the French who may happen to be among us. Every means should be used to remove ancient prejudices, and cultivate a friendship that must be so useful to both nations. Some transactions here during the last four or five months, in the rigorous observance of treaties, with regard to equipment of our armed vessels in the ports and the selling of our prizes, have no doubt made ill impressions on the minds of our seamen and traders relative to the friendship of this court. We were then obliged to observe a secrecy which prevented our removing those prejudices, by acquainting our people with the substantial aids France was privately affording us; and we must continue in the same situation till it is thought fit to publish the treaties. But we can, with pleasure, now acquaint you that we have obtained full satisfaction, viz., 400,000 livres, for the owners of the prizes confiscated here for a breach of the laws by a false declaration (they being entered as coming from Eustatia), and the payment will be made to the owners in America; we mean the prizes taken by Captains Babson and Kendricks, in the BOSTON and HANCOCK privateers, which prizes, after confiscation, were, from reasons of state, restored to the English. This is a fresh proof of the good-will and generosity of this court and their determination to cultivate the friendship of America.







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Babson's Reports
ORGANIZATION MEMORANDA

Date June 25, 1962

To Mr. Roger W. Babson

From Mr. H. C. Baldwin

In Re: Captain Babson

This weekend while reading the second volume of the Diary of John Adams, I came across the name Babson on pages 431, 432, and 433.

At that time John Adams was traveling through Spain and he mentions that on January 15, 1780, at Bilboa, Spain, he met a Captain Babson and dined with him and Captains Lovett and Wickes. He said Captain Babson commanded the Phoenix, a brig of 14 guns. The brig belonged to the Messrs. Tracey of Newburyport, Massachusetts.

I thought this reference might interest you.

HCB/rls

*Please send to Mr. Babson
of Leesport, Va,*

